

**REMARKS**

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated December 3, 2008. By way of this response, claims 5 and 8-18 have been amended and new claims 19, 20, and 21 have been added. In light of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected as unpatentable over Pagani (US Pub. No. 2002/0095484) in view of Loveland (US 6,895,558). Claim 1 recites a method comprising receiving a request via an IVR, to initiate a test signal at a digital subscriber line access module, the request being received from a first system and transmitting a test signal detectable by test equipment from the digital subscriber line access module in response to the request. No combination of Pagani and Loveland teaches or suggests such a method. Rather, Pagani is directed to a system whereby customer premises equipment is configured by an attached mobile configuration unit based on data received over a telecommunications network. In other words, Pagani is directed to control of customer premises equipment, not a network provider digital subscriber line access module (DSLAM). Pagani does not teach or suggest any control or modification of a DSLAM, much less the request for and sending of a test signal that is detectable by test equipment. Loveland is directed to a communication system personal assistant and cannot overcome the deficiencies of Pagani. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 17 recites a method comprising receiving a request via an IVR to initiate a test signal at the digital subscriber line access module, and transmitting a test signal detectable by test equipment from the digital subscriber line access module in response to the request. As described in conjunction with claim 1, no combination of Pagani and Loveland teaches or suggests any control or modification of a DSLAM. Accordingly, claim 17 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 18 recites a method comprising receiving a request via an IVR to initiate a test signal at a digital subscriber line access module and transmitting a test signal detectable by an technician's test equipment from the digital subscriber line access module in response to the request. As described in conjunction with claim 1, no combination of Pagani and Loveland teaches or suggests any control or modification of a DSLAM. Accordingly, claim 18 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 21 recites a method comprising receiving a request via the IVR, to initiate a test signal at a digital subscriber line access module, the request being received from a first system and communicating the request to the digital subscriber line access module to cause the digital subscriber line access module to transmit the test signal detectable by test equipment from the digital subscriber line access module in response to the request. As described in conjunction with claim 1, no combination of Pagani and Loveland teaches or suggests any control or modification of a digital subscriber line access module. Accordingly, claim 21 is patentable over the cited references.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. If there are any remaining matters that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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